
Being Prepared for an Epidemic



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION

Preparedness Components - 1

- Ensure that the surveillance system can detect epidemic meningococcal disease
- Ensure the ability to get laboratory confirmation
- Identify and address training needs
- Maintain reserve stock of vaccine and supplies
(national level responsibility)

Preparedness Components - 2

- Organize an epidemic committee
- Plan logistics and staff needed to respond
- Ensure financial support is available
- Organize vaccination teams
- Make an emergency response plan
- Evaluate epidemic preparedness

Preparedness

- **Evaluate level of preparedness**
 - *before* an epidemic
to be ready to detect & respond
 - *during* an epidemic
so that the response is effective
 - *after* an epidemic
in order to improve

Can the Surveillance System Detect an Epidemic of Meningococcal Disease?

- **Routine Reporting & Emergency Notification**
 - Can health workers (HW) recognize meningococcal disease?
 - Do HWs know the case definitions?
 - Do HWs know HOW to report?
 - Do HWs know WHAT to report?
 - Are routine reports complete and on time?
 - Are the weekly attack rates (or threshold number) being monitored?

Can the Surveillance System Detect an Epidemic of Meningococcal Disease?

■ Investigation Team

- Have members been identified?
- Have members been trained or briefed on their duties?
- Has funding for the investigation been found?
- Have supplies been provided for?

Ensure Ability to Get Laboratory Confirmation

- Is a person trained to collect specimens?
- Are supplies for collection & transport available?
- Have laboratories been identified?
(for examination of CSF, culture, for identification of *N. meningitidis* and for classification by serogroup)
- Have funds been allocated?

Train Staff in Knowledge and Skills Needed to Detect and Control Epidemic Meningococcal Disease

- Determine staff responsibilities
- Decide who needs to be trained
- Decide what they need to learn to do
- Make a training plan
 - what training is needed before an epidemic?
 - what training will be needed when an epidemic begins?
- Conduct training

Train Clinical Staff

Before an Epidemic

- Basic epidemiology of meningococcal disease
- How to recognize meningococcal disease
- Case definitions
- How to report suspected cases
- Clinical management

Train Clinical Staff

At the Start of an Epidemic

- Clinical management
- Record keeping
- How to report / what to report
- Inventory of supplies
- Conducting rapid mass vaccination campaign
- Public education

Train District Staff

Before an Epidemic

- **Basic epidemiology**
- **Surveillance**
 - monitoring attack rates /
threshold number
- **Reporting**

Train District Staff

At the Start of an Epidemic

- Field investigation
 - Data collection & analysis
- Laboratory confirmation
- Reporting
- Inventory, ordering supplies
- Planning & conducting rapid mass vaccination
- Public education

Identify & Address Training Needs

- What % of clinical staff are up-to-date?
- Is there a plan to train HWs *before* an epidemic? Is it being done?
- Is there a plan to quickly train HWs at the time of an epidemic?
- Has funding been allocated for training?

Maintain Reserve Stock of Supplies

- Is there a reserve stock of vaccine?
If so where is it located? How many doses are there?
- Do district officials know how to request vaccine?
- Is there a stock of materials needed for laboratory confirmation?
- Has funding been found for the reserves?

Organize Epidemic Committee

- *Is there a meningococcal disease committee?*

OR

- *A meningococcal disease sub-group of a crisis or epidemic committee?*
- *Does the committee meet regularly?*
- *Are members working to prepare the district for a possible epidemic of meningococcal disease?*

Plan Staff and Logistics

- Have specific responsibilities been decided?
- Is there a plan for re-assigning staff during an epidemic?
- Is there a plan for enlisting additional personnel (e.g. nursing students)?
- Is there a plan to train volunteers to help?
- Is there a plan for setting up Temporary Treatment Centers?
- Have logistics needs been identified?
- Has funding for staff costs and logistics been allocated?

Financial Planning

- Have costs related to *preparation* for an epidemic been identified?
- Have costs related to *investigation and confirmation* been identified?
- Have costs related to *response* been identified?
- Has a source of funding been found for each expense?

Vaccination Campaign

- Have team members been identified?
 - Have they been trained?
- Is the cold-chain prepared?
- Has a source of supplies (except vaccine) been identified?
- Have possible sites been identified?
- Has funding (other than for vaccine purchase) been identified?

Emergency Response Plan

- Is there an Emergency Response Plan for responding to an epidemic?
- Are all persons and agencies that are mentioned in the plan, aware of the plan?

Evaluate Epidemic Preparedness

- Has the district's level of preparedness been evaluated?
- If so, were the results of the evaluation acted on?
- Are regular, periodic evaluations scheduled?